(a) whether Government has commenced the work to convert railway stations into Adarsh Railway Stations; and

(b) if so, the details of fund allocations for Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Development of railway station as Adarsh Station is undertaken through works sanctioned under Plan Head - Passenger Amenities. State-wise allocation of funds for this Plan Head is not maintained. However, allocation of funds under this Plan Head for Southern Railway, which covers the State of Tamil Nadu, is Rs. 7536.40 lakh for the year 2009-10.

High speed parcel train

2590. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Northern Railway is running a high speed parcel train from Tughlaqabad (Delhi) to Vapi (Gujarat);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways proposes to operate such trains in future on other sectors also; and

(d) if so, the details with destinations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A superfast parcel express train service is operating from Tughlakabad (Delhi) to Vapi (Gujarat) and Howrah as a pilot project. Another such service is being planned between Tughlakabad to Royapuram under the pilot project. Efforts are being made to popularize the superfast parcel express train services.

Absorption of Act Apprentices

2591. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on 1 July, 2009, General Manager, Southern Railway issued a notification to absorb Act Apprentices of Railway;

(b) whether on 14 October, 2009, Railways published a list of Act Apprentices in its website and directed them to join on 15 October, 2009;

(c) whether on 14 October, 2009, Southern Railway administration received directions to stop the recruitment; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) On 1.7.2009, Notification was issued by Southern Railway calling applications from amongst Course Completed Act Apprentices for their engagement as substitutes in Group D posts.

(b) No Sir.

(c) and (d) Southern Railway has published the result on 10.11.09 and candidates have been advised to join as substitutes in Group 'D'

Nangal-Talwara-Pathankot rail line project

2592. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Nangal-Talwara-Pathankot rail line in Punjab, which was started decades ago;

(b) by when the project is likely to be completed; and

(c) the specific steps proposed to ensure speedy action in its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Nangal Dam-Chuararu Takrala (33 Km) portion of Nangal Dam-Talwara new line project is completed. Work on Chuararu Takrala-Amb Andara section (11.25 Km) is targeted to be completed by December, 2009. The work is progressing as per availability of resources. Steps are being taken to generate additional funds for expediting implementation of ongoing projects.

Construction of Indore-Peethampur rail track

†2593. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal with regard to construction of Indore-Peethampur rail track is pending with the Ministry;

(b) if so, the current status of the proposal and the steps taken for the construction of it;

(c) whether more time taken is likely to escalate the cost to execute the work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Indore-Pithampur is a part of Dahod-Indore new line project which has been taken up at an anticipated cost of Rs. 948.80 crore. Land acquisition, earthwork and bridge works have been taken up. An expenditure of Rs. 41.43 crore has been incurred upto 31.03.2009 and an outlay of Rs. 40 crore has been provided during 2009-10.

(c) and (d) The works shall be completed in coming years based on availability of resources. Cost may escalate with time.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.